THE CLAIMS

As amended, the claims of the application are:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising means defining a communication region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols and being responsive to a user-controlled pointing device whereby a desired symbol can be selected by detecting movement of the pointing device along a predetermined bearing within the communication region, the predetermined bearing being substantially parallel to a direction of the desired symbol relative to a central region of the communication region within a tolerance determined by the angular separation of adjacent symbols, and being offset relative to the location of the symbol to be selected, said system being responsive to said user-controlled pointing device independent of the location within said communication region at which movement along said predetermined bearing commences.

2. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is a plurality of cells within a single communication region, each cell having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a linear manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement along the predetermined bearing to select a respective cell followed by further radial or circumferential movement to select the desired symbol associated with the respective cell.

3. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of symbol entry regions are provided each having associated therewith a plurality of symbols and each being responsive to the user-controlled pointing device whereby a desired symbol can be selected by movement of the pointing device along the predetermined bearing within the region with which the desired symbol is associated.

4. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are eight communication regions, each region having associated therewith four symbols arranged in an orthogonal manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired region.

5. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are five communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

6. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are four communication regions, each region having associated there-

with a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

7. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are three communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

8. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are two communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

9. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein two sets of communication regions are provided.

10. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one further region is provided separated from the first-mentioned regions for

toggling between the first-mentioned set of symbols and one or more further sets of symbols to be associated with each of the regions.

11. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein means is provided for selecting a further symbol arranged within an area encompassed by or adjacent to the first-mentioned symbols of each region by tapping the area within the desired region.

12. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein means is provided for selecting further symbols by employing a different form of movement from that required to select from the basic symbols.

13. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the further symbols are selected on the basis of the speed of movement of the pointing device.

14. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the further symbols are selected on the basis of a combination of movements.

15. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise a curvilinear movement.

16. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement with a dwell at the beginning and/or end thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement in a first direction followed by a further linear movement reversing the preceding movement.

18. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise two sequential linear movements at a predetermined angle to each other.

19. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the region or regions are provided on a touch-sensitive pad or screen.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of communication in which a plurality of symbols are associated with a communication region and a desired symbol is selected by detecting movement of a pointing device along a predetermined bearing within the communication region, the predetermined bearing being substantially parallel to a direction of the desired symbol relative to a central region of the communication region within a tolerance determined by the angular separation of adjacent symbols, and being offset relative to the location of the symbol to be selected, effecting of said

selection being independent of the location within said communication region at which movement of the pointing device along said predetermined bearing commences.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein there is a plurality of cells within a single communication region, each cell having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a linear manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement along the predetermined bearing to select a respective cell followed by further radial or circumferential movement to select the desired symbol or the like associated with the respective cell.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein a plurality of symbol entry regions are provided each having associated therewith a plurality of symbols and each being responsive to the user-controlled pointing device whereby a desired symbol can be selected by movement of the pointing device along the predetermined bearing within the region with which the desired symbol is associated.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are eight communication regions, each having associated therewith four symbols arranged in an orthogonal manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement

within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired region.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are five communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are four communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are three communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are two communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein two sets of communication regions are provided.

29. (Previously Presented Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein at least one further region is provided separated from the first-mentioned regions for toggling between the first-mentioned set of symbols and one or more further sets of symbols to be associated with each of the regions.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein means is provided for selecting a further symbol arranged within an area encompassed by or adjacent to the first-mentioned symbols of each region by tapping the area within the desired region.

31. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein further symbols are selectable by employing a different form of movement from that required to select from the basic symbols.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 31, wherein the further symbols may be selected on the basis of the speed of movement of the pointing device.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 31, wherein the further symbols may be selected on the basis of a combination of movements.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise a curvilinear movement.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement with a dwell at the beginning and/or end thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement in a first direction followed by a further linear movement reversing the preceding movement.

37. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise two sequential linear movements at a predetermined angle to each other.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein the region or regions are provided on a touch-sensitive pad or screen.